

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as shown in the listing of the claims below. The listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

Please cancel claims 10-15 and 18-19.

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) A method for identifying compounds for treating obesity comprising identifying inhibitors or regulators of PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ) activity using an assay selected from the group consisting of an in vitro binding assay, a cell based transactivation assay, an adipocyte differentiation assay and an in vivo obese animal model assay comprising the steps of:

contacting PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ) with a compound in the presence of a known PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ) ligand; and  
detecting the ability of the compound to competitively inhibit binding of the known  
PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ) ligand to PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ) wherein a decrease in PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ) activity in the presence of the  
compound compared to the activity of PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ) in the presence of the known ligand and in the  
absence of the compound indicates that the compound is an inhibitor of PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ).

Claims 10-19 (Canceled).

Claims 20 (Currently Amended) A method for identifying compounds for treating obesity comprising the step steps of: ~~determining whether the compound inhibits PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ )~~

contacting PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ) with a compound in the presence of a known PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ) ligand; and  
detecting the ability of the compound to competitively inhibit binding of the known  
PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ) ligand to PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ) wherein a decrease in PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ) activity in the presence of the  
compound compared to the activity of PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ) in the presence of the known ligand and in the  
absence of the compound indicates that the compound is an inhibitor of PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ).